October 24, 2013 meeting minutes Cambridge GLBT Commission

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

The minutes of the September 26 meeting were approved.

Agenda for the October 24 meeting was accepted.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u> Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Mike McKenna, John Gintell, Mal Malme, Steven Lee, Kristina Mastropasqua, Rachel Oppenheimer, Neil Scannell, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Bob Parlin, Lesley Phillips, Kara Smith, Gregory Grays-Thomas, Danny Venezia

Commissioners Absent: (excused) – Caitlin Drechsler, Bill Barnert, Maggie Giles

Commissioners On Leave: Dana Zircher

<u>Guests:</u> Vilma Uribe (Violence Recovery Program from Fenway Health), Tre'Andre Valentine (The Network/La Red), Austin Bay (GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project)

I. Welcome and Introductions

a. Commissioners and guests introduced each other.

II. Guests

- a. GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project
 - i. Provide support services for survivors of GLBTQ domestic and sexual violence.
 - ii. Have a safe home for survivors.
- b. Fenway Health
 - i. Hate crimes, police misconduct, and partner abuse provide counseling to people who have gone through these traumatic events
 - ii. Have a periodic meeting with the Boston Police Department to make sure that crimes to the GLBTQ community are being addressed
 - iii. Hoping to expand reach to other police departments as they work in towns outside of Boston
- c. The Network/La Red
 - i. Have a hotline and a safehome and provide advocacy and referrals
 - ii. Work with the GLBTQ, polyamorous, and kink communities
 - iii. Provide in-person support as well
 - iv. Serve all of Massachusetts, but have worked with people from across the country and globally
 - v. Do community organizing and education
 - vi. Trying to increase accessibility to black and latino communities
- d. Abuse/violence reports from the GLBTQ community are underreported.

- e. Supt. Burke indicated he would like to work with these organizations with the Cambridge PD
- f. Neil S., a former district attorney, noted that domestic violence victims are rarely willing to testify in court.
 - i. Working with DA offices is something these organizations would like to do.
- g. Regarding youth...
 - i. The Network/La Red has worked with BAGLY to develop a dating abuse curriculum.
 - ii. As mandated reporters, working with youth does provide some obstacles.
 - iii. People are coming out at a younger age than ever before, and we need to consider the services available to them.
- h. Austin will be reaching out to homeless shelters in the Greater Boston area to try to implement training around LGBTQ issues.
- i. To support these organizations, we will ensure that we have links to their sites on the Commission's website.
- j. We should contact them when we have tables at outreach events in the future. They would be happy to send materials/handouts and maybe even try to attend.

III. Police Department Report

- a. The GOAL New England event was wonderful.
- b. GOAL training is being done to the Lowell Police Academy and some EMS companies as well.

IV. Report on Meeting with Executive Director of Human Rights Commission

- a. Meeting was October 16
- b. Danny, Aren and John met with Nancy S. of the Human Rights Commission.
- c. She will approach the city manager about establishing rules and repercussions about how to handle issues of homophobia that arise within the city's workforce. A guiding question is what happens when there are violations of the City of Cambridge Employee Standards of Conduct?
- d. Based on the response Nancy gets from the city manager, the Commission will decide on the next steps to take.

V. Report on Oktoberfest

- a. Event was October 13
- b. This went well, and it's recommended the Commission attend Oktoberfest in the future.

VI. CRLS Teachers Event

a. Kara is in communication with Melody Brazo to begin planning an event for Cambridge's LGBT teachers and allies.

VII. Youth on Fire event – November 14

- a. The event will be at the Cambridge Main Public Library.
- b. 5:30-6:00pm Pizza
- c. 6:00-8:00pm Program followed by dessert and hallway mingling
- d. YoF members will do the bulk of distributing posters and promoting the event.

- e. Kristina and Neil M. will work on the poster design.
 - i. Ideas were shared for what we want on the poster.
- f. John will plan to send out personal invitations to people who work in the city.
- g. Rachel will advertise at Fenway Health.
- h. Rachel will talk to Panera about possible food donations.
- i. Caitlin offered to talk to Bertucci's.
- j. Danny will speak to Iggy's and has a friend who owns a sandwich shop.
- k. Aren will try to set up a donation from 1369 Coffee Shop.
- 1. Neil M. will talk to Cinderella's.
- m. Steven will go to BJ's to get dessert, plates, utensils, etc.
- n. Aren will put out an email to the group in a week to check on everyone's progress with obtaining food donations.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm